

Most recently, in his role as a liaison officer to the U.S. Senate, Colonel Root once again distinguished himself, developing outstanding relationships with Senators and staff members alike. During his 3 years of service in the Office of Legislative Affairs, Colonel Root escorted 40 congressional and staff delegations, accompanying Members to more than 50 countries, including active combat theaters.

I myself travelled with Colonel Root on a number of occasions during his time in the Senate, and was always extremely impressed by his close attention to detail, flexibility, and unflinching dedication to his work. I know many of my colleagues felt the same way, and it is therefore no surprise that Colonel Root was often requested by name to help assist in the planning and coordination of congressional fact-finding and oversight delegations.

And so, once again, it is a great honor to be able to congratulate Colonel Root today on this seminal achievement. His unwavering commitment to serving his country as a professional soldier in the Army is truly laudable, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to him for his years of service. Colonel Root, and all of the men and women of our Armed Forces, are an indispensable asset to this country, and I hope my colleagues will join me today in honoring this top-notch soldier and dear friend, and wonderful human being.●

#### 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JONES CENTER

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I commemorate the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Jones Center For Families in my home State of Arkansas. The Jones Center, located in Springdale, is a 220,000 square foot facility that provides educational, recreational, health, and community programs and various services to individuals and families across northwest Arkansas.

The center will celebrate its 15th birthday with a public festival on Sunday, October 24, featuring a proclamation by Springdale mayor Doug Sprouse and family activities including children's crafts and games, pumpkin painting, live music, birthday cake, and ice cream. The event will be open to the community free of charge, including access to all swimming pools and the ice skating rink.

The Jones Center opened in 1995 as a gift to the community from the late Mrs. Bernice Young Jones, wife of Harvey Jones, founder of the Jones Truck Lines. According to its mission statement, the center is proud to provide a place where "all are welcome" in the heart of northwest Arkansas. In keeping with Mrs. Jones' wish that no one be turned away, the center offers facilities and services at minimal or no cost to everyone regardless of age, race, gender, religion, or economic status.

Under the leadership of Rick McCullough, executive director, the

Jones Center welcomes more than 1 million visitors per year, with an operating budget of \$2.4 million. Programs and amenities at the center include an ice rink, junior Olympic competition swimming pool, fun pool with slide, fitness room, a chapel/auditorium, a computer center, and numerous other meeting rooms, playgrounds, and athletic courts.

I have visited the Jones Center often, and I commend the staff and volunteers for their efforts to better their community and provide recreational and social opportunities in a safe, modern facility. I salute the entire Springdale community as they celebrate the 15th anniversary of this unique gathering place in the heart of northwest Arkansas.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE WEST FAMILY

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize the West Family of Prairie Grove as they celebrate 150 years in Arkansas farming. I commend them for achieving this significant milestone. As a seventh-generation Arkansan and farmer's daughter, and as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee, I understand firsthand and appreciate the hard work and contributions of our farm families. I am proud to share the story of the West Family Farm with you today.

One hundred and fifty years ago, Robert J. West homesteaded land two miles north of Prairie Grove, AR, in a community called Viney Grove after moving to Arkansas from Tennessee in 1860.

On December 7, 1862, the family watched from the hilltop of their farm as the Battle of Prairie Grove played out in the valley less than a mile away. Union soldiers used their home as a make-shift hospital following the bloody battle. Historical records indicate that the West Farm was even considered as a location for the University of Arkansas before it was founded in Fayetteville in 1871.

Generation after generation, the West family has dedicated itself to becoming a successful Arkansas farming operation. Current owner and operator Randy West has lived and worked on the farm his whole life, just as his father, grandfather and great grandfather did before him. He has committed his life to improving the farm's profitability, sustainability and efficiency while raising a family with the lessons and values of rural living.

Randy and his wife Cheryl work together on the farm as they operate a Bermuda grass hay business that produces between 50,000 and 70,000 square bales annually on the farm's 455 total acres. They also run a poultry operation consisting of three broiler houses.

In 1991, the farm was recognized as the Washington County Farm Family of the Year and the Northwest District Farm Family of the Year. In 2003, the farm was recognized by Tyson Foods as

one of five national Environmental Stewardship Award winners for its commitment to best management practices. Tyson Foods continually uses the farm as a model for environmental stewardship.

A lot has changed in Prairie Grove and in northwest Arkansas over the past 150 years, but the West Family Farm remains a constant. From the time Robert J. West founded the farm on the dawn of the Civil War, through the great depression in the 1930s, to the modern age of agriculture in the 2000s, the West Farm has withstood the test of time and has remained committed to preserving the farming way of life.

Arkansas's farm families are critical to our nation's economic stability. We must work to continue the farm family tradition, so families such as the West Family are able to maintain their livelihoods and continue to help provide the safe, abundant, and affordable food supply that feeds our own country and the world and that is essential to our own economic stability. I salute the West Family and all Arkansas farm families for their hard work and dedication.●

#### EUREKA SPRINGS, ARKANSAS

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize the city of Eureka Springs in my home State of Arkansas as local residents celebrate two major awards for their community.

The American Planning Association recently designated Spring Street in Eureka Springs as one of the 10 Great Streets for 2010 under the organization's Great Places in America program. According to the association, Spring Street exemplifies "exceptional character in a community of lasting value." The street was singled out for its originality and unique characteristics.

Eureka Springs was also recognized nationally as a 2010 Top 25 Arts Destination by American Style Magazine. This is the sixth year the community has received this honor, which recognizes public support for artists, arts institutions, galleries and festivals, and the contribution of the arts to the local community.

I salute the residents of Eureka Springs for their efforts to maintain the heritage, culture, and history of their community. I have been proud to visit Eureka Springs and Spring Street, and I join all my fellow Arkansans to express our pride in this jewel of our State.●

#### RECOGNIZING MCGEEHEE CHAMBER HONOREES

● Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, today I recognize McGehee residents and their families who were recently honored by the McGehee Chamber of Commerce for their outstanding efforts for their community. Honorees are:

Man of the Year: Mr. Jim Daniels.

Woman of the Year: Ms. Cindy Smith.